Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 VANCOU 00628 172234Z

62
ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SSO-00 EUR-12 SCA-01 /016 W
---------- 028197
O P 172226Z OCT 74
FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1805
INFO AMCONSUL CALGARY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

UNCLAS VANCOUVER 0628

E.O. 11652: N.A.
TAGS: CASC: (MILLER, JAMES D.)
SUBJECT: W/W: SEARCH AND RESCUE ABOVE MENTIONED

1. SENATORS SCOTT AND SCHWEIKER INTERESTED.
2. JAMES D. MILLER AND GLEN DAVID BIERMAN ON SHEEP HUNTING TRIP WHEN MILLER DISAPPEARED SEPTEMBER 22. TWO EXPERIENCED INDIAN GUIDES AND ONE OUTFITTER FAMILIAR WITH AREA ACCOMPANIED MILLER AND BIERMAN. THEY IMMEDIATELY CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE SEARCH OF AREA ON FOOT AS SOON AS MILLER DISCOVERED MISSING.
3. MILLER DISAPPEARED IN REMOTE AND ISOLATED COUNTRY. NO ROADS OR TRAILS INTO AREA. TAKES TWO WEEKS TO GET INTO AREA BY GROUND. ONLY QUICK ENTRY IS BY HELICOPTER. THEREFORE, GUIDES AND OUTFITTER DID IMMEDIATE THING WHICH WAS SEARCH FOR MILLER. WEATHER STARTED DETERIORATING SEPTEMBER 24 AND BY SEPTEMBER 28 THERE WAS SIX INCHES SNOW ON GROUND. GUIDES THEN CONTACTED RCMP WATSON LAKE FOR SEARCH ASSISTANCE BECAUSE UNABLE LOCATE MILLER. SEPTEMBER 29 RCMP HELICOPTER SEARCHED ENTIRE AREA. REQUESTED POLICE SERVICE DOG WHICH ARRIVED LATE SEPTEMBER 30. BAD WEATHER OCTOBER 1 AND 2 SO POLICE DOG AND TWO RCMP PERSONNEL COULD NOT BE DROPPED INTO AREA BY HELICOPTER UNTIL OCTOBER 3. THEY TRACKED AREA OF ENTIRE MOUNTAIN, INCLUDING TOP, SIDES AND ALL AROUND BASE UNTIL OCTOBER 7 WHEN WEATHER DETERIORATED AGAIN. HELICOPTED HAD DIFFICULTY IN GETTING THEM OUT OF AREA OCTOBER 7. AS WEATHER PERMITTED ONE HELICOPTER
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 VANCOU 00628 172234Z

AND RCMP POLICE SERVICE AIRCRAFT HAVE CONTINUED SEARCH

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

SEARCH BY AIRCRAFT ALSO CONDUCTED AT NIGHT WITH HOPE
OF SPOTTING CAMP FIRE, BUT NO EVIDENCE OF MILLER.
4. AT TIME MILLER DISAPPEARED HE WAS LIGHTLY CLAD
WITH ONLY A SHIRT AND LIGHT GEAR BECAUSE WEATHER GOOD.
SEPTEMBER 24, IT SNOWED AND TEMPERATURE DROPPED BELOW
ZERO, GREATLY HAMPERING RESCUE ACTIVITIES. WHOLE MOUNTAIN
COVERED WITH FOG AND SNOW. MEN EXPERIENCED IN AREA
DISCUSSED FURTHER RESCUE EFFORTS AND RECOMMENDED AGAINST
SENDING RESCUE TEAM INTO AREA TO SEARCH BY FOOT BECAUSE
TOO DANGEROUS AND POSSIBILITY THEY MIGHT LOSE SOME OF
MEN. AREA HAS EXTREMELY RUGGED TERRAIN AND WEATHER BAD
WITH SNOW, FOG,AND FREEZING RAIN. HELICOPTERS FROM
WATSON LAKE ARE STANDING BY TO SEARCH AS WEATHER PERMITS.
5. RCMP THINK MILLER FELL OR SLIPPED OFF CLIFF WHILE
CLIMBING UP MOUNTAIN WITH BIERMAN, TWO GUIDES, AND
OUTFITTER. POSSIBILITY FALL CAUSED INJURY SO HE UNABLE
WALK OUT FOR ASSISTANCE OR BUILD CAMP FIRE TO ALERT
SEARCHERS OF POSITION.
IF INJURED AND UNABLE MOVE , PROBABLY FROZE TO DEATH
AND BODY COMPLETELY COVERED BY SNOW.
6. BIERMAN AND FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE, MR. STOCKBERGER,
WERE BOTH AT SITE OF TRAGEDY AND SHOULD BE ABLE DESCRIBE
TREACHEROUS COUNTRY TO MRSM MILLER, AND ASSURE HER THAT
ALL POSSIBLE WAS AND IS BEING DONE IN EFFORT LOCATE
HUSBAND. RCMP REPRESENTATIVE, WHITEHORSE, YUKON
TERRITORY, SAID STOCKBERGER APPEARED SATISFIED WITH RESCUE
EFFORTS. ALSO STATED RCMP DOES NOT FEEL USAF SEARCH AND
RESCUE UNITS ABLE DO MORE THAN CANADIAN RESCUE TEAM
COMPOSED OF EXPERIENCED MEN WHO KNOW THAT PARTICULAR AREA.
7. RCMP WISH ASSURE MRS. MILLER THAT THEY HAVE NOT GIVEN
UP SEARCH. THEY ARE ALSO SEARCHING FOR CANADIAN MAN MISSING
IN SAME AREA.
8. PLEASE KEEP DON KRUSE EURCAN FULLY INFORMED.

EILERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VANCOU00628
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740296-0430
From: VANCOUVER
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741037/aaaabfrm.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <12 MAR 2002 by chappeld, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <11 JUL 2002 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <11 JUL 2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: W/W: SEARCH AND RESCUE ABOVE MENTIONED
TAGS: CASC, (MILLER, JAMES D)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005